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Spring 2008

Cross Keys

With Mission Matters



Photo: Practising for Electric Church at St James, Syresham. See page 3.

From Single Screen to Multiplex

The comedian Billy Connolly said, "there is no such thing as bad weather... only the wrong clothes!"

The wonderful stories in this issue of Cross Keys – and there are plenty more that could be told – are of churches who have grappled with the question of how we clothe the gospel, without compromising or diluting its power, in appropriate ways to help people find faith in Jesus Christ. The examples here show churches who have set worship and evangelism as the key priorities of God's Church.

It is also good to see, as in Whitefriars, something which was new and pioneering a few years ago "growing up" and finding a fresh identity, but still remaining pioneering. Alongside this are stories of the church in its infancy – growing fast, full of joy and energy and

delight, brimming with potential to transform lives.

All these things complement the equally wonderful stories which we can tell about more established churches who are attracting people through small groups, Bible studies, the vibrancy of worship and the quality of welcome.

They show that we are moving from a "one size/one day fits all" – in cinema terms a single screen approach – to our worship and outreach, to becoming more multiplex – providing variety and in doing so attracting more people.

St Paul was right when he sought to be "all things to all people so that some might be saved" – and it's happening here in a Mission Shaped Diocese!

*Revd Tim Sledge
Diocesan Mission Enabler*

A newsletter for churches in the Diocese of Peterborough
Uniting Anglican churches in Northants, Rutland and Peterborough

FREE

Wider church news



Archbishop's clarification

The Archbishop of Canterbury took responsibility for "any unclarity" and "misleading words" regarding his statements on Sharia law, which had also suffered from mis-reporting. He told General Synod that he had not spoken of "parallel jurisdictions" and explained that in having been asked to speak on "Islam and English Law" he was exploring suggestions for settling certain civil disputes within the framework of existing English law where Islamic law has additional requirements. He alluded to the legal right of Christian doctors not to perform abortions as an example of how English civil law makes allowances for religious conscience. He added that as Archbishop he felt "it is not inappropriate to address issues around the perceived concerns of other religious communities and to try to bring them into better public focus."

Synodical range

Apart from the Archbishop's clarification, General Synod (meeting as we went to press) was also grappling with such major social issues as detention without

charge, mental health, and casinos as well as domestic issues such as clergy terms of service, the proposed Anglican Covenant, and Anglican-Roman Catholic relations.

Passion on telly

The Churches' Media Council has launched a website to provide resources and information about the BBC TV series The Passion being broadcast over Easter. www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion is designed to help local churches and Christians make the most of the conversations which are likely to arise from a critically acclaimed series.

Chaplains cohere

University and college chaplains are demonstrating how religious communities can work alongside each other to build social cohesion in an environment that encourages dialogue and challenges extremes, according to a report commissioned by the Church of England. It calls on higher education institutions and the government to make better provision for chaplaincies at a time when 43% of young people experience higher education.

For more church news check the diocesan website and follow the links to the Church of England.



The Church of England Diocese of Peterborough

Cross Keys – Spring 2008

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Did you know that...

- printing costs for Cross Keys are mostly covered by advertising revenue;
- distribution costs are low because, where possible, publication coincides with opportunities for free delivery via meetings;
- copy deadlines for 2008 are: **28 April** for the Summer issue, **18 August** for the Autumn issue, and **13 October** for the Winter issue.

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Mon 17, Evening Event – Passover Supper Donald Parr
Tues 18, Drop in Day, for those in Ministry Revd David Pettifor

April

Fri 4 – Sun 6, Exploring your authentic self with drama, Jen Dazeley
Mon 14, Myers Briggs Day Revd Christine Pollard

May

Thurs 1, Quiet Day 'May Day with Mary', Diana Walls

June

Fri 6 – Sun 8, Healing & Wholeness Weekend, Revd Paul & Diana Hunt
Mon 9, Myers Briggs Spirituality & Shadow workshop, Revd Christine Pollard
Mon 23, Quiet Day 'For yours is the kingdom...' Revd Norman Howes

July

Fri 25 – Wed 30, Individually Guided Retreat
Thurs 31, Quiet Day 'The Armour of God' Daphne Cook

August

Tues 19 – Wed 20, Celtic Retreat 'a celebration of the beauty of life' Richard & Margaret Deimel
Thurs 21 – Thurs 28, CARM Painting & Prayer Retreat

September

Mon 1 – Fri 5, CARM Drama & Prayer Retreat

October

Thurs 2, Workshop – Exploring your authentic self, Jen Dazeley
Fri 17, Quiet Day 'Healing of Memories' Yvonne Baggaley & Mary Morris

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Electric Church begins to generate worship

About twelve months ago the Astwell Group of Parishes, at the Brackley end of the diocese, set out on a musical quest that eventually led to setting up what they call, "Electric Church".

"The existing worship in our churches is traditional and very welcoming," said the Rector, Will Adams. "It is a form that works well for those who attend, but I wondered if there were other people in our parishes who might be touched by a different form of worship, were we to offer it," he said.

What Will had in mind was quite outside his own experience. So he tried to find local musicians who could help and he took advice from Fiona Banham, a music teacher he knew who was also experienced in contemporary Christian worship.

From the start Will made clear that, whilst the music should be of good quality, it was to be an aid to worship rather than a performance.

After a few false starts, it was a conversation in the local pub that prompted him to knock on the



doors of one or two parishioners who played suitable instruments. Gradually the musicians - youngsters aged anywhere between 11 and 65 - came to light and were invited to Helmdon Church one Saturday morning to listen to some CDs and discuss the idea of playing something similar for a service.

Fiona's skill in selecting material that was within the reach of all the

musicians helped to inspire confidence, even amongst the more inexperienced players.

Since then, practices have been held regularly and the group now has about twelve core members. After some months, the first Electric Church service was held at Syresham on a Sunday afternoon and attracted people from villages throughout the benefice.

The theme of the service was The Nature of God and alongside the music were readings and prayers, as well as visual and interactive elements.

In the long term, the vision is for the service to happen somewhere in the benefice about once a quarter. "We're still testing the water," says Will, "and taking very small steps at a time."

The next Electric Church service is planned for Thursday 6 March, at Syresham. It is to be recorded by BBC Radio Northampton for broadcast the following Sunday.

For more information contact Will Adams on 01280 850683.

DVD features our working lives

Aaron Day from Billing (pictured) is one of several people featured in a DVD sent to parishes during February to illustrate this year's theme from the Diocesan Strategy, Releasing Ministry.

Each person in the DVD tells something of their experience of being called by God to their work, whether that is a secular job or ministry within the Church.

Aaron talks about his work in the waste recycling business and the importance of encouraging companies to recycle their waste



rather than send it to land-fill. He also mentions some of the challenges faced as a Christian running a business.

At the end of the DVD Bishop Frank suggests some ways in which we can help one another in our vocations, perhaps using the intercessions in Church to pray for the responsibilities each of us has in our daily work; and by having a regular place in church meetings to identify and encourage the gifts of people within the life of the Church.

Fresh expressions: connecting with people

A “fresh expression” of church can be defined as a different way of expressing church life. These three examples from our diocese show how the form of that expression is tailored to meet the needs of a particular community.

“Church with a smile on its face” reaches capacity

What do you do when your “fresh expression” is full to capacity? At St Andrews in Kettering they decided to appoint a Children, Youth and Families Worker to build on the foundation laid by “Saint and Drews”. Becky Wills will be licensed to the post soon.

Saint and Drews has been going for a couple of years now and is a weekly, term-time service, from 6-7pm on Saturdays. It is specifically designed to fit in with family life and aims to live up to its strapline, “church with a smile on its face”.

The congregation is now around 150 each week and the content taps into the interests and enthusiasms of its congregation. Current popular songs have Christian words set to them, drama is used and it's the adults as well as the children (right, in action) who enjoy the messy play activities.



Photo: Ecclesiastical

The housing estate with Eagles Wings

Eagles Wings – the symbol of St John or the name of a pub? It doesn't matter to the people on the Grange Estate in Kettering who have experienced friendship, belonging and an awakening Christian faith since Church Army Evangelists Mandy and Richard Priestley came to live on the Estate 18 months ago.

The Sunday Tea at St John's Community Centre with its family welcome, fun activities and quiet area for prayer, or the Tuesday discipleship group, or the children's clubs, are only part of the story.

“The key thing is to live here and love this community,” says Mandy. “Words are cheap, but if you help where you can, live out your faith and build relationships, people will ask questions. You can see God whispering



to people – as we help them to move forward in their faith, they are helping us to do the same.”

Eagles Wings came about through a partnership between two Kettering churches, St Mary the Virgin and Christ the King, who shared a vision to reach out to a community in their neighbourhood that had little or no experience of church.

Photo: An Eagles Wings litter collection

A village story

What better way to start a Sunday than a leisurely breakfast, newspapers, fresh coffee, fruit smoothies and a full English if you want it. That's what's on offer once a fortnight at Café Connections in the Church Hall at Bozeat, in rural Northamptonshire.

Café Connections takes place alongside the traditional Sunday services at the two churches in Bozeat. “These services are enjoyed by many as they are, but we wanted to provide an alternative that is accessible to those who don't connect with more traditional styles of worship,” says Chris Brett, Parish Evangelist in the benefice.

“As well as enjoying each other's company we explore themes like *What is a Christian?* and *Forgiveness*. We have a quiet area for prayer and lively children's activities.”



Around 40 adults and 20 children are now regulars at Café Connections and one family recently had their baby baptised there (above).

“We are so excited by what God is doing,” says Chris. “We realise that he has been working things out a long time before we came on the scene.” Chris and his wife Linda, also a Licensed Lay Minister, have moved to live in Bozeat Vicarage, supported by the Church.

Don't miss Daventry's Saturday Express!

You can catch the *5.30 Saturday Express* at Holy Cross Church Hall in Daventry on the last Saturday of the month. It is 40 minutes of contemporary worship, geared to families.

"Saturday Express is particularly for those who would find the traditional Sunday Eucharist a step too far," said Claire Rose-Casmore, Team Vicar of Daventry. It can help baptism families to become part of a Christian community.

The service has been going now for 12 months and is led by lay members of the team including the Children's Worker, Paula Challen, and Parish Evangelist, Michelle Cotton. The worship band from Holy Cross are also involved, leading the music.

"We have a motto: *With the help of God we will,*" said Claire Rose-Casmore. "In the service, families promise to follow the way of Jesus *with the help of God*. As the Church we promise to nurture and support them in the faith *with the help of God*. Saturday Express is a way of keeping our side of the bargain."



Paula Challen, Michelle Cotton and Claire Rose Casmore outside Holy Cross, Daventry.
Photo: Daventry Express

The 5.30 Saturday Express is one element of the "mixed diet" of worship offered within the Daventry Team. There are also monthly services for healing and wholeness, meditation and benediction and Taizé style worship.

The challenge to be welcoming



Photo: The new Academy school, due to open in September, takes shape at Priors Hall, north east of Corby. It is part of a 5000 home development.

"The challenge for us is, how do we welcome people?" said Bob Purser, Ecumenical Officer for Churches in New Communities.

With tens of thousands of new homes likely to be built in the diocese within the next twenty years, it is a challenge that will affect every parish in some shape or form. Within Northampton alone an extra 20,000 homes are planned by 2021 – that's the equivalent population of roughly two extra parishes.

It is Bob's role to liaise with developers, local authority planners and other Church denominations to help ensure that the spiritual needs of the people who will live in the new settlements are taken into account. The provision of worship spaces in schools or community centres is one aspect of this.

Whitefriars is a parish – it's official!

On 1 January 2008 Whitefriars in Rushden officially became a new Church of England parish. Originally a church plant set up sixteen years ago, Whitefriars has grown from a children's holiday club into a large and lively church.

The church is based at Whitefriars Junior School and runs a wide variety of groups, including a youth project based at Rushden Community College.

Church members "beat the bounds" of the new parish in January by walking its perimeter (below).



Garry Atkins

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MARCH

Sat 8, Music at Milton: The Bliss Quartet led by Roland Roberts, 7.30pm at Milton Malsor Holy Cross. Tickets £10 from 01604 858207 and 01604 858320.

Sun 9, Bishops' Lent Meeting, 2.45pm-5pm at Peterborough (West) Holiday Inn. Tel: 01733 887000.

Sat 15, Handel's Messiah with Northampton Philharmonic Choir. 7.30pm at Christ Church Northampton. Tickets: £12-£18. Tel: 07958 768661.

Sat 15, Doug Horley, children's Christian leader, seminar and praise party at St Mary's, Rushden. Tickets £1. Booking essential. Call 01933 358650.

Sun 16, Redemption Song, Riding Lights Theatre Company with a communal experience of theatre and worship. 6pm at St Peter and St Paul, Kettering. Free entry. www.ridinglights.org/redemptionsong

Thurs 20, Maundy Thursday, 10.30am Christ Eucharist with renewal of vows at Peterborough Cathedral. For details of all Eastertide services at the Cathedral, call 01733 343342 or visit www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk

Mon 24, Organ recital: Ivan Linford, Oakham School Organist. 11.15am at All

WHAT'S ON

Saints', Oakham. Ploughman's lunches in Church Hall. Retiring collection.

APRIL

Fri 5, Kettering Camerata perform Haydn's Creation at St Peter and St Paul, Kettering at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 (£9). Tel: 01536 513955.

Sat 19, Cowslip and Fritillary Day at St Peter's, Newton Bromswold. 2pm - 4pm. Plant sale and a chance to learn more about this award winning Churchyard.

Fri 25 - Sun, Twentieth anniversary weekend at The William Law School/ Emmanuel Church at Werrington, Peterborough. 01733 576541.

Sat 26, The Foss Dyke Band celebrate St George. 7.30 pm at St Katharine's Church, Irchester. Tickets £8 inc. buffet. Tel: 01933 359096.

MAY

Mon 5, Organ recital: Benjamin Horden, organ scholar at Peterborough Cathedral. 11.15am at All Saints', Oakham. Ploughman's lunches in Church Hall. Retiring collection.

Sat 10, Fair Trade Fair at St Peter's, Oundle, 9am - 2pm.

Sat 17, Abington Choir Concert, 7pm at St Peter and St Paul, Abington (The Church in the Park). Music through the centuries and A Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins. Tickets £5 on door.



Woodend open gardens, 8th June

Sat 17 and Sun 18, St Francis, Duston Fortieth Anniversary. Flower Festival with Music from the 60's theme. Tel: 01604 753679.

Thurs 22, "Totally Wired": young people and the technology revolution. Seminar for parents and youth leaders. 7.30pm at Christ the King, Kettering. Booking essential. Tickets £5. Email: steve@junction7.org

Mon 26, Organ recital: Philip Underwood, organist at St John the Divine, Brooklands, Sale. 11.15am at All Saints', Oakham. Ploughman's lunches. Retiring collection.

JUNE

Sun 1, Creaton in Bloom. Gardens open 1pm. BBQ, teas and stalls. On A5199, 7 miles north of Northampton. In aid of St Michael & All Angels, Creaton.

Sat 7 and Sun 8, A Weekend of English Music at St Mary's, Ketton, nr Stamford. *Tickets £8 individually, £12 for both concerts from 01780 721015 or 01780 721005 or at the door.

* **Sat 7: Instrumental Concert** 7.30 pm. Piano, Margaret Fingerhut; violin, Isabelle Flory; conductor, Barry Collett. Pieces by Finzi, Vaughan Williams.

* **Sun 8: Choral Concert** The Cantus Choir, 6pm. Baritone, Robert Gildon; conductor, Alwyn Pollard. Includes Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*.

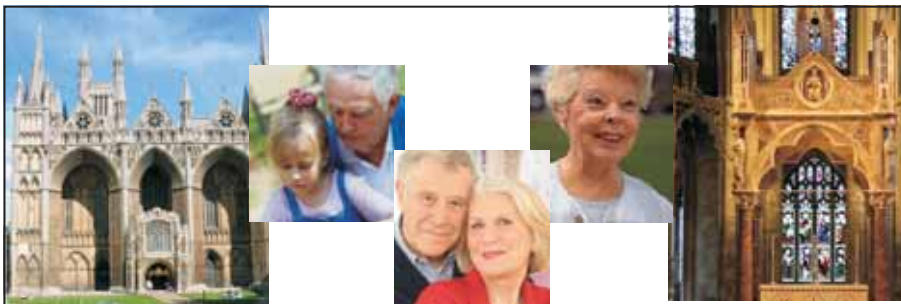
Sat 7 and Sun 8, Brafield on the Green Flower Festival and Fete, 1.30-4.30pm at St Laurence's. Theme: "The Months of the Year".

Sun 8, Oundle Open Gardens. Refreshments at St Peter's, 2pm - 5pm.

Sun 8, Slapton Open Gardens nr Towcester. 1pm - 6pm. Lovely village gardens. Teas. Medieval wall paintings in St Botolph's. Tel: 01327 860019.

Sun 8, Woodend Open Gardens in aid of St Mary's, Blakesley, nr Towcester. Open 2-6pm, lovely gardens amidst rolling countryside. Teas and stalls.

Thurs 12, Werrington Mothers' Union Strawberry Fayre, 2.30pm in Werrington Village Centre, Peterborough. 01733 576541.



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Vision for Cathedral starts with conversations

It is hard to believe that nearly a year has elapsed since my installation as Dean of Peterborough. If it's true that time flies when one is enjoying oneself, then I have to admit that I am!

I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome I have received from so many and for the very friendly and gifted colleagues I have inherited on the Bishop's Staff and the Cathedral Chapter, all of whom are doing their best to house-train their baby dean. I am grateful too for the highly committed team of staff and volunteers who enable the Cathedral to function.

Highlights of the past year are too numerous to list, but they surely include Holy Week and Easter (with the performance of the Passion by Riding Lights Theatre); the Ordinations and the Licensing of Lay Ministers; the 80th Anniversary of the Friends of the Cathedral; Remembrance Sunday and the powerful wave of support it engendered for those wounded or otherwise affected by current conflicts; and the thousands who came through our doors over the Christmas period – including an ecumenical congregation of about 900 to launch Hope '08 on New Year's Eve.

However, most important and most significant of all is the continuation of the Opus Dei, the daily round of worship in which we uphold our Bishop and the diocese, the wider Church and the world through our corporate prayer and praise.

Much energy has had to be expended here in recent years on the restoration of the building. Although there remains work to be done on the fabric (including an annual maintenance bill of about £250,000) we are now in a position to focus on developing the mission and ministry of the Cathedral in the diocese and the region.

Time to talk

During this year we are holding conversations with a range of "stakeholders" – among them the Cathedral community itself, civic leaders in the City of Peterborough and the regions embraced by the diocese, other churches and faith traditions, representatives of education, music and the arts.

In particular, I hope to visit every Deanery Synod to engage with a cross-section of clergy and laity in a discussion of what the Cathedral is for and how it might better serve the Church and the wider community. Chapter will then consider the ideas and suggestions, set priorities and, in the light of that, form a vision and development strategy for the decade leading up to "Peterborough 900" – the 900th anniversary of the commencement of the present building which we will celebrate in 2018.

*The Very Revd Charles Taylor
Dean of Peterborough Cathedral*



Restored stonework on the West Front

Launde Abbey offers the ideal venue



The new diocesan retreat house at Launde Abbey is the ideal place for PCC away days, parish weekends, day retreats, beautiful walks, Alpha days, training weekends and much more. It's only a short distance away at East Norton in Leicestershire (LE7 9XB) and offers a variety of open days as well as more formal retreats. Call 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk

Celebrating 100 years of prayer for unity

The one hundredth year of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated with a service at Holy Sepulchre in Northampton.

Following the service, church leaders cut a centenary cake. Pictured from left are Major Jonathan Roberts (Salvation Army), Bishop Peter Doyle (RC), Bishop Frank, Revd Andy Brooks (Methodist), Revd Helen Wordsworth (Baptist) and Revd Terry Oakley (URC).



Thank you, Tim

Tim Sledge, Mission Enabler in the diocese for the past five years, leaves at Easter to become Vicar of Romsey Abbey in Winchester Diocese.

Tim helped to establish the Diocesan Mission Fund to support mission and church planting projects and has been involved in training and support with countless groups and individuals.

In thanking Tim and wishing him well for the future Bishop Frank said, "our greatest tribute to him will be to deepen the enthusiasm to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the wealth of opportunities we have discovered during the years of his service in the diocese."